

## Claims

- [c1] What is claimed is:
- 1.A method for generating a watermark on a photo picture using a thermal printer; the thermal printer comprising a thermal printhead for heating an ink ribbon and generating an image through the ink ribbon on a photo picture; the ink ribbon comprising a plurality of sequentially arranged color frames, each color frame comprising a plurality of dye frames with different color dyes and a dye frame with overcoating; the method comprising:
- using the thermal printhead to heat a color frame with a plurality of different color dyes and to sublimate the color dyes on a photo picture;
- using the thermal printhead to heat the dye frame with the overcoating and to heat a different area on the dye frame by two distinct time periods.
- [c2] 2.The method of claim 1 wherein each color frame storing yellow, magenta, and cyan dye.
- [c3] 3.The method of claim 1 wherein the thermal printer further comprises a winding mechanism for driving the ink ribbon to generate a shift between the thermal printhead and the ink ribbon.
- [c4] 4.The method of claim 1 wherein the thermal printhead is capable of heating different areas on each dye frame stored with different color dyes by a plurality of different time periods, so as to print an image on a photo picture.
- [c5] 5.The method of claim 1 wherein the thermal printhead is capable of heating different areas on a dye frame stored with overcoating by two distinct time periods, so as to print an image-shaped overcoating on a photo picture.
- [c6] 6.The method of claim 1 wherein the thermal printer further comprises a controller for adjusting a heating time period for the thermal printhead to heat different areas on each color frame.

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